

CROSSROADS

SIERRA CLUB

FALL 2015



WE NEED YOUR HELP: Michigan Sierra Club Supports a Ban on Fracking

At the July Executive Committee meeting, the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club and all of the local Sierra Club groups in the state voted unanimously to end high volume, horizontal fracking and its associated toxic waste disposal in Michigan.

As part of our effort on this we are endorsing the proposed ballot measure being conducted by the Committee to Ban Fracking. We would like to offer the opportunity to all of the Sierra Club members in the Crossroads Group to help gather signatures to get this initiative on the November 2016 ballot. Training is available and you will not have to go out alone. **Please sign up immediately if you are interested as the signatures must be turned in by Nov. 11th, 2015.**

Also, be sure YOU have signed a petition! Check our website to learn dates and locations of where you can go to sign. We only have until November 11th!

Here is how to get involved: Send an email to Crossroads.SierraClub@gmail.com and let us know you are ready to help. We will forward your name on to our local organizers. Or sign up to help at <http://bit.ly/1L5o5MP>.

Want to learn more about fracking? See our website at sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads/fracking.

The Dangers of Common Chemicals

Our world is full of chemicals, many considered toxic and others considered safe. But are these so-called "safe" chemicals really safe? That is the question a task force of 174 scientists from leading research centers around the world wanted to answer.

The study selected 85 chemicals considered non-carcinogenic to humans and the results were disturbing. At least 50 appear to be acting in combination in ways that can trigger cancer.

In an article published in the Oxford Journals, the authors concluded the following: "Low-dose exposures to common environmental chemicals that are deemed safe individually may be combining to instigate carcinogenesis, thereby contributing to the incidence of cancer. This risk may be overlooked by current regulatory practices and needs to be vigorously investigated."

The devastation caused by cancer on human health is substantial. "Credible estimates from the World Health Organization and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) suggest that the fraction of cancers attributable to toxic environmental exposures is between 7% and 19%." The authors assert that "additional basic research on carcinogenesis and research focused on low-dose effects of chemical mixtures needs to be rigorously pursued."

This finding is particularly important in light of the fact that "massive gaps exist in toxicologic data, even in the case of widely used synthetic chemicals. Only about 50% of chemicals classified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as 'high production volume' have undergone even minimal testing for carcinogenicity."

Protecting our environment and human health requires far more care in the use of chemicals in our daily lives. Equally important, the regulatory agencies that approve new chemicals must be more diligent in their testing and take into account the dangers caused by combinations of chemicals that are on their own thought to be safe. The full text of the article can be found here:

http://carcin.oxfordjournals.org/content/36/Suppl_1/S254.full

--- Jim Delcamp and Lee Burton

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Making a Difference - Making New Friends

The greater Livingston County area is a special place, filled with beautiful landscapes. The lakes, the rivers, the forests, the wetlands...these are places that are so attractive to those of us who live here and where we go to recreate.

It is no accident that these parks and other beautiful habitats are here. They were set aside and preserved by forward-thinking people who understood the value of protecting our natural environment. But that job is not done and never will be.

That's why organizations like the Crossroads Group of the Sierra Club are so important. The leadership is made up of your neighbors, good people who care about the environment and want to make a difference. But it takes a team to make a difference. And that's where you come in.

Without the efforts of our leadership team we could not offer programs and outings, all of which are free to the public. We would not be able to support environmental causes. We would not be able to educate the public about the importance of protecting our natural world for all to enjoy. It's a lot of work that brings a lot of rewards. To continue our success we need a good team. We need people like you. What are the rewards from being part of the Crossroads team? You will make a difference in our community by helping to make it a better place. Beyond that, you will make new friends; other people - like yourself - who care about the world around them and are willing to help make a difference. And for all that you give for the good of the cause, you will receive much in return.

There are many ways to participate in Crossroads. We are sure we can find something to match your interests and time constraints. To learn more, please contact Sue Kelly at sue.kelly@michigan.sierraclub.org or Lee Burton at lee.burton@michigan.sierraclub.org or 810-231-9045.

Keeping Up With Crossroads

The Crossroads Group of the Sierra Club is an active organization. Our leadership team is continually planning events that might be of interest to you. This newsletter is one way to keep up with the Crossroads Group, but new activities are being planned regularly. So how can you keep up with us? Easy! Check out our web page, our Facebook page, or our Meetup page. All are kept updated with the latest information. And, if you register on the Meetup page, you'll get timely reminders of all of our programs, outings and other events. The links are listed below. Hope to see you soon!

sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads
facebook.com/Crossroads.Group.Sierra.Club
meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Crossroads-Group

Newsletter E-Delivery:

Help us reduce costs and save some trees!

If you would like to sign up for electronic delivery of our quarterly newsletters, please contact our webmaster at cg.webmaster@michigan.sierraclub.org. If you sign up for e-delivery, you will be notified via email when a new newsletter is available to view on our website and we will stop sending you the paper copies of the newsletters unless you specifically request to receive both. See our website sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads (click "Newsletters" tab) for more information.

Crossroads Outings

Outings are subject to conditions. To check for cancellations or changes, or to find out more information about any outing, see our website (sierraclub.org/michigan/crossroads) or contact John Wilson at 734-355-3822 or crossroadsoutings@michigan.sierraclub.org. All outings are open to Sierra Club members and non-members.

Kensington Metropark Hike - Sunday September 13th, 1 PM

Location: Kensington Metropark, park entrance is off Kensington Rd just north of I-96, Brighton; meet at the Nature Center

Skill Level: beginner; Difficulty: easy to moderate; Cost: free, but requires Metropark entry fee

Choose from 2 hiking options on the wooded trails: a slower-paced 2 mile hike around Wildwing Lake where we will identify trees and wildflowers with knowledgeable outing leaders; or a faster-paced 5 mile hike around various trails.

Pinckney Recreation Area Crooked Lake Trail Hike - Saturday, September 26th, 1 PM

Location: Pinckney Recreation Area, 8555 Silver Hill Rd., Pinckney; meet at the Silver Lake trailhead parking lot

Skill Level: beginner; Difficulty: moderate; Cost: free, but requires state park entry fee or passport

Join us for a 5 mile fall hike on one of Michigan's premier trail systems. The area is covered with glacial moraines, kettle lakes, and swampy lowlands. Meet at the trailhead parking lot for the Silver Lake, Potawatomi, and Crooked Lake trails.

Fall Color Canoe Outing, Island Lake Recreation Area - Saturday, October 17th, 1 PM

Location: Island Lake Recreation Area, 6301 Kensington Rd, Brighton; meet at the boat launch/canoe rental area

Skill Level: some experience; Difficulty: moderate; Cost: \$38 for 2-person canoe rental, plus state park entry fee or passport

Join us for a beautiful fall color paddle on the national wild and scenic Huron River in Island Lake State Park. You do not need to bring your own canoe! By special arrangement with Heavner Canoe Rentals, you can rent a canoe for \$38. You can make a reservation online at www.heavnercanoe.com/reservations (reserve for 10/17, choose Island Lake Recreation, and mention the Sierra Club in the comment). This is a 2-3 hour trip. We will have cider and donuts!

Kayaking for Cranes at Deerfield Hills - Saturday, October 24th, 4 PM

Location: Deerfield Hills Nature Area, Green Rd & Cohoctah Rd, Fenton; meet in the parking lot

Skill Level: some experience; Difficulty: moderate; Cost: free

A kayak/canoe outing to view close-up migration of Sandhill cranes. Join us for an evening of viewing these birds as they gather to their migration staging area on an island in Bennett Lake, in preparation for their 1,000 mile southward journey. It is also possible to view the birds from a vantage point a short hike from the launch area. Bring your own kayak/canoe, binoculars, warm clothes, and a picnic if you like. The Greater Sandhill Crane, often recognized as the oldest living bird species, has a wingspan eclipsing six feet.

Annual Winter Ducks Outing at Kensington Metropark - Sunday Nov 22nd, 1 PM

Location: Kensington Metropark, park entrance is off Kensington Rd just north of I-96, Brighton; meet at the Nature Center

Skill Level: beginner; Difficulty: easy; Cost: free, but requires Metropark entry fee

Join us to witness one of nature's amazing shows--the migration of ducks, geese and other wildfowl heading south for the winter. Bring binoculars or viewing scope. The outing will be led by experienced Audubon leader, Dan Minock.

Brighton Recreation Area Penosha Trail Hike - Saturday, December 5th, 1 PM

Location: Penosha Trail, Bishop Lake parking lot, off Bishop Lake Rd, Howell; see more details below

Skill Level: beginner; Difficulty: moderate; Cost: free, but requires state park entry fee or passport

Join us for an afternoon hike on the Penosha Trail. The trail is 5 miles, approximately 2-2 ½ hours, through woods and meadows. See our website or contact our outings leader for specific directions to the trailhead parking lot. Hiking boots and appropriate warm clothing recommended, trails may be muddy. A great hike near our own back yard!

Huron Meadows Metropark Ski Outing/hike if no snow - Sunday, December 27th, 1 PM

Location: Huron Meadows Metropark, 8765 Hammel Rd, Brighton; meet at the Ski Center

Skill Level: novices to advanced; Difficulty: easy to moderate; Cost: free, but requires Metropark entry fee

Join us for an afternoon cross country ski outing. Ski and boot rental available. Enjoy miles of groomed trails both on the golf course and through the woods. Heated warming shelter and indoor bathrooms available. We will ski on shorter and longer distance trails depending on experience levels. Celebrate the New Year early! We will hike if there is no snow.

Annual Owl Walk and Dinner Outing - Saturday, January 9th, 5 PM

Location: Home of Lee Burton and Roberta Shaw-Reeves, Brighton

Difficulty: easy; Cost: free

Join us for our most popular outing of the year – our annual owl walk. It will be hosted by Lee Burton and Roberta Shaw-Reeves at their home in Brighton. We will begin with a potluck dinner and drinks and an introduction to owls and owl calls. At about 7:00 we will venture into Brighton Recreation Area - just a short walk from the house - and call for screech owls and great horned owls, both of which will be nesting at the time. Please join us for this fascinating way to spend a winter evening in Michigan. Bring a flashlight, a dish to share, something to drink and warm clothes. Your hosts will provide cider, juice, sparkling water, books about owls and the warmth of a wood fire. For more information and directions see our website or contact Lee at 810-231-9045 or lee.burton@michigan.sierraclub.org.

Crossroads Programs

“Lords of the Sky – Birds of Prey” A live animal presentation presented by Howell Conference and Nature Center.
Wednesday, September 16th, 7 pm – 9 pm
Brighton District Library – Free Admission

“Roots to Fruits” A presentation about edible, functional, beautiful, and ecologically sound landscaping practices.
Wednesday, November 18th, 7 pm – 9 pm
Brighton District Library – Free Admission

Paddle-Pedal

In recognition of Michigan Trails Week, and to celebrate the new boat launch steps into the Huron, the Friends of Island Lake will be hosting a Paddle-Pedal on September 19th from 12-4 pm at the Kent Lake parking lot of Island Lake Recreation Area. Enjoy the scenic Huron River with a 1-2 hour paddle to Riverbend Picnic area and pedal 3 miles back to Kent Lake. If you need a boat, canoes and kayaks will be available for rent through Heavner Canoe Rental; participants must bring and transport bicycles. Secure bicycle and canoe storage will be available at the river portages. Contact Heavner Canoe Rental at 248-685-2379 or visit www.heavnercanoe.com for boat rental information and reservations. For additional information on the Paddle-Pedal please visit www.islandlakefriends.org or contact Island Lake Recreation Area at 810-229-7067.

Big Detroit Environmental Justice Event in the Works for October!

The Crossroads Group is excited about the opportunity to participate in a big event planned for Saturday, October 3rd in Detroit. It is coordinated by National Sierra Club as well as other groups. We will post all the details as they emerge and hook people up with others who want to carpool. Check our web page for final details and email crossroads.sierraclub@gmail.com to be added to the carpool list or with any questions you may have.

Here is the statement of the purpose of the event. We hope for a big turnout from our group!

Detroit March for Justice 2015

Detroit didn't just put the world on wheels. The Motor City created a living wage and made social justice a reality for workers across America. But today we are losing ground in a world where justice takes a back seat to profits. We aren't just fighting for a living wage, but for clean air, access to drinking water and freedom from pollution that is disrupting our climate and threatening our way of life. It is clear that justice is often a life or death issue – because environmental justice is linked to economic justice and social justice is linked to climate justice and water justice is linked to human rights.

That's why this fall we are asking you to join us in leading a major Detroit event to demand justice. The Detroit March for Justice will build on the 2014 Climate March in New York City where 400,000 people turned out to demand justice. The massive turnout, the diversity of people, the uniting of organizations had a major impact. However, all of us involved in that effort understand that it was just the beginning of a movement for change. The ever growing number of marches across the nation focused on issues ranging from the just treatment of all people, climate issues, human rights, social justice, civil rights and women's rights all have at their core justice issues.

For many years, Sierra Club has been working with Detroiters to fight for environmental justice. We know that the color of justice isn't just green. Clean air, the right to water, fair wages, housing justice and protecting our health are threads woven from the same cloth of social justice that unites us all.

ET Rover Go Home

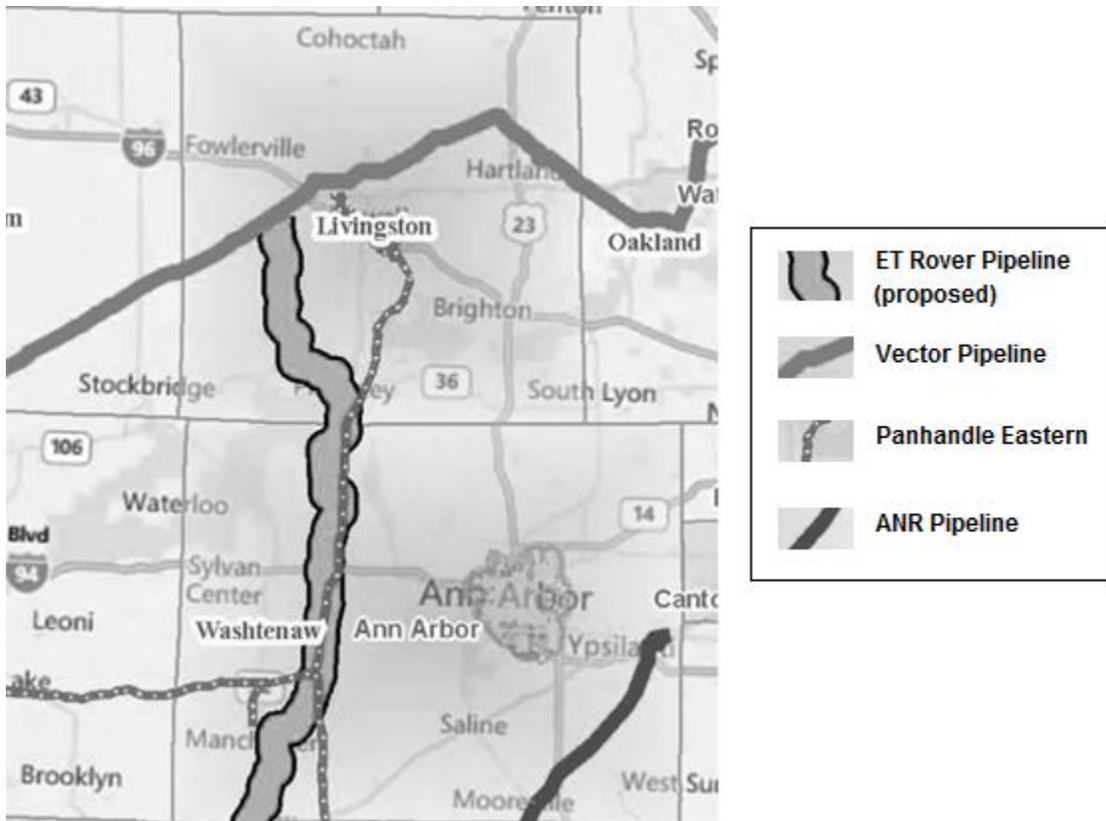
Families affected by the proposed ET Rover pipeline in Putnam Township, with the assistance of the Food and Water Watch and the local Sierra Clubs, hosted a panel discussion July 16th. The panel consisted of fellow Sierra Club member Frank Zaski from Franklin, Heidi Roy-Borland (mother of two who lives within 100 feet of the proposed pipeline), Kim Savage (attorney), and me. Frank drew on his background as an analyst and was able to, in eight minutes, condense all of the reasons that this pipeline is not needed. This is a major question that must be addressed in order for the pipeline to be approved. Heidi spoke passionately about the prospect of living within the “blast zone” of a 42 inch pipeline. Kim discussed the legal issues relating to pipelines. Since my wife and I have endured the perils of having two major pipelines in our front yard, I spoke from that perspective.

Food and Water Watch and the Sierra Club are working to oppose the ET Rover and NEXUS pipeline projects, and on the shutdown of Enbridge's Line 5 across the Straits of Mackinac. Senator Gary Peters has openly stated that he has major concerns that Line 5 poses to the Great Lakes. Senator Debbie Stabenow, a champion of the Great Lakes, needs to hear from her constituents to push harder. For some of her thoughts on these issues, see www.stabenow.senate.gov and search for “Protecting our Great Lakes”.

Food and Water Watch along with the Sierra Club will continue to hold public meetings. Visit our website to see the upcoming schedule, and consider attending a meeting since larger numbers make for good press coverage. Also, please consider contacting your elected officials. When visiting the staff of Senator Stabenow we heard repeatedly “people need to contact the office and share their concerns”. See www.house.mi.gov/mhrpublic.

Ron Kardos

Proposed ET Rover Pipeline Route in Our Area





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Thanks to our friends at Big PDQ printing for their support. 810-229-2989 www.bigpdq.com



Help Us Ban Fracking in Michigan

Fracking, the violent new process of drilling for natural gas and oil, permanently destroys millions of gallons of Michigan's fresh water for each well drilled by mixing it with toxic chemicals. The fracking process has been linked to air pollution, ground water contamination, and earthquakes. Because of health and pollution concerns, fracking has been banned in France, Germany, Ireland, Bulgaria, Vermont, and the state of New York.

Now, the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club is working with the Committee to Ban Fracking to initiate a ballot proposal for Michigan voters to ban fracking in our state. Over 350,000 signatures are needed by November 11th for this to happen.

See details inside for how you can help!

Welcome to our new sponsors: Howell Conference & Nature Center



Howell Nature Center

howellnaturecenter.org

Since 1963 the Howell Conference & Nature Center has developed a one-of-a-kind mission: providing a comprehensive wildlife rehabilitation, environmental and outdoor education, and outdoor recreation facility to individuals and groups. Features of the 270-acre location include: seven spacious, modern lodges; miles of trails; a nationally-recognized wildlife rehabilitation program; the Midwest's only Heifer Global Village site; the area's only zip course; Michigan's tallest outdoor climbing tower; two high ropes courses; Livingston county's only zoo; and more. Moreover, the Center's Wildlife Rehabilitation program celebrated 30 years in service to injured and orphaned animals in 2012. It is the largest and most comprehensive program of its kind in Michigan, and is recognized across the country for its specialization in raptors, or birds of prey.